Social Discrimination of Social Groups

1472. SHRIMATI VANGAGEETHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even now some social groups are subjected to the persistent social discrimination, crimes and atrocities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to penalise the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA): (a) and (b) Owing to various measures taken towards socio-economic and educational development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there has been a decline in such offences which are attributed to factors like land disputes, land alienation, indebtedness, non-payment of minimum wages, besides caste prejudices and practice of untouchabilities etc.

(c) Two special central legislations *viz.* the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the scheduled castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 have been enacted, which provide for penalties for offences relating to practice of untouchability and atrocities Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Steps to educate socially disadvantaged groups

1473. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the socially disdvantaged groups are berefit of education on a large scale;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to educate them?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) the Government is committed to proved education, primary education in particular to the socially disadvantaged groups. Both the Central and States/UT Governments are implementing a number of programmes for their educational upliftment, which include provision of assistance towards maintenance for day scholars and hostellers, reimburesement of compulsory non-refundable fees, thesis typing/printing charges, study tour charges, book allowance for students pursuing correspondence courses and special provisions for such students with disabilities etc.